Craftsmen asked to upgrade skills to be competitive

By Felix A. Baidoo, Kumasi

Ghanaian artisans and craftsmen have been challenged to upgrade their skills to match up with international standards or risk being kicked out of business. The National President of the Progressive Electronic Technicians Association of Ghana (PETAG), Mr. Kumaan Nuwud Baladine Morrison, said with the current movement from analogue to digitisation, there was the need for artisans to switch quickly else they would be out of job.

Mr. Morrison was speaking at the maiden graduation of 24 members of PETAG after undergoing a four-month training in hardware and network engineering in Kumasi.

Twenty-two of the graduates are from the Ashanti Region while the remaining two are from the Northern Region.

The training was organised by PETAG in collaboration with the Council for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (COVETE) with funding coming from the Skills Development Fund (SDF). It was aimed at equipping the artisans to be able to diversify their operations with the development of modern technologies.

The national president said the rapid changes in the information and technology world called for the upgrade of skills and knowledge if the artisans wanted to stay in business.

He commended COVETE and SDF for the support as it had come to enhance the capacity of PETAG's members to make them economically empowered.

The Ashanti Regional Chairman of PETAG, Mr. Andrews Appiah, for his part, called for unity among members to make them a strong force to reckon with. He reminded the graduates to maintain professionalism in the delivery of their services to stay in business, since people would not trust them if they indulged in any form of malpractice.

The Administrator of the IPMC office in Kumasi, Ms. Anu Kapoor, who was a special guest at the function, pledged to collaborate with all stakeholders to ensure that the right skills and knowledge were acquired by the people to enhance efficiency at their workplaces.

She called on the youth to take keen interest in the learning of Information Technology (IT), since the globe was gradually becoming an IT world.